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Patterson Brands Charge Misleading

Attorney General Points To Mize's Decision

Special to The Commercial Appeal

VAIDEN, Miss., June 19. —

Atty. Gen. Joe Patterson Wednesday branded criticism of his opponent for re-election for not appealing a Federal district court order for admission of a Negro to the University of Mississippi law school "as just another effort to muddy the water, confuse the issues and mislead the people."

Atty. Gen. Patterson's answer was to charges by state Senator John McLaurin of Brandon, who is opposing him in the Aug. 6 Democratic primary. It was given at a political rally here.

Mr. Patterson said the order by District Judge S. C. Mize, "a loyal Mississippian, would not have been entered unless he was convinced beyond all shadow of a doubt that it was the only course he had to follow in the light of decisions of the United States Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"If one of our institutions of higher learning is compelled to be under an injunction, I know the people of Mississippi had rather the injunction would be at the hands of Judge Mize than at the hands of the Fifth Court of Appeals," Atty. Gen. Patterson said.

He also noted that Gov. Ross Barnett had said on the admission of Cleve McDowell on June 5, "We have done everything within our power to prevent the enrollment of Cleve McDowell in the university law school."